THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN/(a) A Task Force on Human Resource Development in Information Technology has been set up to look into the entire issue of IT education including improving quality and standard of IT education in the Country. The Task Force has not submitted its Reports so far.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The Government is holding consultations with the State Government and the educational institutions for common admission test for entrance to under graduate programmes in engineering & technology (including architecture) with similar entry requirements.

(d) Government has taken a several steps for providing computer education at higher level in the country. This includes increasing number of seats in IT and IT related programmes, starting of new programmes in IT and IT related areas and starting of new institutions mainly in the self-financing sector and particularly for IT programmes.

New Policy for school education

1353. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are proposing a new policy for school education upto Board 12th class examination, through NCERT;

(b) whether it is also a fact that both the public and Government schools are proposed to Dt having uniform syllabus and only, +2 exams are planned;

(c) if so, the benefits and highlights of this scheme; and

(d) by when, it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (d) NCERT has published National Curriculum Framework for School Education as a part of the ongoing process of curriculum development and in pursuance of the directions given in Education Policy. NCERT recommends the same Curriculum Framework for all schools of the country and it also suggests that public examinations may not be held before the secondary level.

The recommendations regarding syllabus and evaluation contained in this document are expected to make them more useful, learner friendly and stress free. That will also increase the accountability of schools and teachers and bring in transparency. The question of implementation of the recommendations depends on the decisions taken by different boards of school education in the country and the CBSE.